



PUBLIC NOTICE

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FCC TO WITHHOLD ACTION ON CERTAIN FM EDUCATIONAL APPLICATIONS BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL INTERFERENCE TO TELEVISION CHANNEL SIX

Interference from some educational FM stations to reception of television Channel 6 continues to be of concern to the Commission. The problem is widely recognized as a problem in the design of the television receiving system. Television sets have been designed in such a way that under certain conditions they are unable to reject the undesired FM signal. The interference problem may also be aggravated when the home TV system includes a broadband booster amplifier.

Although the problem is basically in the television receiver and does not reflect a poor system of frequency allocation, the Commission recently met to discuss its concerns about the problem. There is presently a rulemaking (Docket No. 20735) scheduled for completion in early fall that will address the problem. In the meantime, however, a large number of educational FM applications are nearly ready for grant. Therefore, the Commission considered a number of possible steps that could be taken in the interim pending final action on the rulemaking.

Citing recent cases in Rochester, Minnesota and Corvallis, Oregon where the operation of a new educational FM facility has caused severe interference to the reception of TV Channel 6, the FCC has decided to temporarily withhold action on educational FM applications which pose the greatest potential for interference to TV Channel 6. The Commission will withhold further action on all applications for new noncommercial educational FM stations and for major changes in the facilities of such stations when the proposed facilities are located within the Grade B contours of a TV station operating on Channel 6 and where the FM station plans to operate on an FM channel between Channels 200 through 207, inclusive. Action will not be withheld for FM facilities which are co-located with the Channel 6 station regardless of frequency or where the TV station and FM station have reached an agreement. This limited delay of application grants will be in effect only until the rulemaking in Docket No. 20735 is concluded.

Action by the Commission July 16, 1981. Commissioners Fowler (Chairman), Quello, Washburn, Fogarty and Jones, with Commissioner Dawson abstaining from voting.